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Chairman: Mr. Galuška ..... (Czech Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 107: Crime prevention and criminal justice (A/54/3, A/54/69-E/1999/8 and Add.1, A/54/289, A/54/340; A/C.3/54/2; A/C.3/54/L.3-6)

Agenda item 108: International drug control (A/54/3, A/54/186, A/54/293-E/1999/119, A/54/314-S/1999/942; A/C.3/54/L.7)

1. **Mr. Arlacchi** (Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention), reporting on international drug control, said that the optimism inspired by the determined attitude of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly had been sustained by the action taken.

2. The Office had a fourfold strategy, the first component being focused on information, advocacy and policy support, as the main thrust of the struggle against illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse. Throughout the world, experts from the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) were working with Governments to improve understanding of the global nature of the issue and were helping Member States to strengthen their policies in drug demand reduction, law enforcement and alternative development. The forthcoming publication of the second *World Drug Report* demonstrated the will of UNDCP to present the best available information.

3. The second component of the strategy related to the elimination of illicit crops, an objective that Member States had agreed to attain by the year 2008. To that end, UNDCP was offering to interested countries various projects relating to the control of illicit cultivation on the one hand and alternative activities on the other. The new technologies, especially satellites and the Internet, combined with the progress in research, had revolutionized international drug control methods and, with the help of UNDCP, many countries would soon themselves be in a position to estimate the extent of illicit crop cultivation in their territory.

4. Twenty-five years of experience had shown that alternative development was the best way to break the economic dependence of farmers on illicit crops and to improve the living conditions of whole communities, create markets and diversify economies. He had witnessed that process in Northern Thailand and in Pakistan, Turkey and Viet Nam, where illicit crop cultivation had almost entirely disappeared. One UNDCP priority was to achieve similar results in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the third largest opium-producer. An agreement to that effect had been signed in May 1999 with the Lao Government, and UNDCP was seeking the resources necessary to finance alternative development. The fact that solutions were at hand did not excuse the international community from making all possible efforts to break the economic cycle on which illicit cultivation was based.

5. It was most difficult to eliminate opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and Myanmar, where UNDCP had not yet succeeded in fully implementing its strategy. Particularly favourable weather conditions and an increase in the area under cultivation had resulted in a harvest of 4,600 tons of opium in 1999, 70 per cent more than in 1998. Afghanistan was currently producing 75 per cent of the world's opium. However unacceptable those figures were, the political situation and the insecurity in the country made effective intervention impossible. There was no room for fatalism, however; efforts must be made to contain the drug production problem in Afghanistan. In that connection, he welcomed the success of activities carried out in Tajikistan, in particular, to increase the capacity for drug detection and eradication. The seven countries bordering Afghanistan would serve as a security belt to prevent the spread of opium cultivation and heroin production to neighbouring countries. He urged the international community to adopt a political position focusing on the serious nature of the drug problem in Afghanistan.

6. With regard to cocaine production, the Andean countries had developed business plans based on alternative development as a means to end economic dependence on cocaine as well as production of that drug. In the current year Bolivia would destroy 14,000 hectares under illicit cocaine cultivation and thus, on the threshold of the new millennium, would have only one sixth of the area under cultivation that it had had 10 years earlier, while in Peru, cocaine cultivation had decreased to 51,000 hectares in 1998 from 129,000 hectares in 1992. He was convinced that Bolivia could have achieved similar results were it not for the present situation, especially as the President and his Government were determined to settle the civil conflict peacefully and had given priority to eliminating cocaine and opium from the country. The support of the international community for alternative development was more important than ever: putting an end to economic dependence on drugs was the best way to ensure that replanting would not take place.

7. The third component of the Office's strategy was the elimination of illicit drug trafficking. UNDCP was building bridges between drug law enforcement institutions to encourage more effective cross-border cooperation, and its programmes were designed to help Member States to apply internationally recognized standards in drug-testing

laboratories. Each State would of course have to ensure that the law was enforced, but the Office would supply reliable information on the availability of illicit drugs to national criminal justice systems and health-care authorities. The programme set up in Tajikistan was an excellent example of the way in which the Office had made its expertise available to help set up agencies for the elimination of drug trafficking.

8. The fourth component of the strategy was focused on reducing the demand for drugs. The nature, scale and extent of the problem should first be made clear; the Office had launched a global monitoring programme which would include an inventory of the very best practices. The emphasis was on helping Member States to identify their own situations and then to have more accurate statistics available for more practical responses.

9. In concluding the issue of international drug control, he emphasized that, contrary to popular belief, the highest rates of drug consumption had been recorded in the developing countries, while some developed countries were producing a large proportion of the narcotics.

10. He expressed his gratitude to Member States for their financial support, an increase of 30 per cent being expected in contributions, but he regretted that 82 per cent of the funds had been earmarked for UNDCP activities, which was a disservice to the Office. He also recalled that the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances had recommended that a portion of the assets forfeited as a result of convictions in drug-related criminal cases should be turned over to the United Nations. He urged all Member States to follow the example of Luxembourg, the only country which used drug money to finance activities aimed at improving the situation internationally.

11. Turning to agenda item 107, the Executive Director said that 2000 would be a decisive year for the Centre for International Crime Prevention if the convention against transnational organized crime was adopted as planned. That convention had two main objectives: on the one hand, to strengthen international cooperation by offering a common framework to different legal systems and, on the other hand, to set the standards that domestic legislation must meet in order to combat organized crime effectively. Three protocols were also being drafted, dealing with the manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, particularly women and children. Over 125 Member States were taking part in the negotiations.

12. Transnational organized criminal groups had proliferated in the past decade, taking advantage of weakening State controls, the dismantling of barriers to trade and the disappearance of borders, and were exploiting the opportunities provided by the globalization of the economy. In addition, such groups were very violent; for example, according to figures provided by the Russian Department for Prevention of Organized Crime, in the preceding seven years, there had been a 750 per cent increase in criminal offences and there had been more than 200 contract murders in 1998. There was no longer any debate at the international level about whether organized crime posed a threat to economic growth and political stability. The international community had recognized that global crime constituted one of the gravest threats to prosperity in the next century.

13. No country could cope successfully on its own with the growth of international crime. The combination of corruption, organized crime and money laundering ("crony" capitalism) could destabilize entire political, economic and social systems. A convention against organized transnational crime would extend to all countries the benefits of measures such as confiscation of criminal assets, witness protection programmes and enhanced judicial cooperation. It was also time to abolish bank secrecy where it hindered criminal investigations and to consider taking strong action against those who abused offshore financial centres to launder their money. He hoped that the tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held in Vienna in spring 2000, would devote special attention to the development of measures which would look beyond the provisions contained in that convention and its protocols, that the participating Governments would commit to action supported by targets and timetables, and that the convention would provide for a proper mechanism for its implementation, in particular to provide developing countries with the means to put effectively into practice the most important provisions.

14. The Centre for International Crime Prevention had defined some priority areas to which the United Nations could make a useful contribution, in particular the three global programmes designed to support the Convention.

15. The first programme was aimed at combating corruption, which a recent World Bank study had shown to hurt public welfare and the activities of the private sector, and which could be deeply institutionalized. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had shown that investment levels in countries affected by corruption were 5 per cent lower than in other countries. The global programme against corruption must assist countries in developing countermeasures and training policy makers,

judges, prosecutors and financial sector experts. In order to avoid duplication of effort, the Centre had coordinated its activities with the World Bank and Transparency International, amongst others. The Global Forum on Fighting Corruption, convened by the Vice-President of the United States of America, had gathered together high-level delegations from more than 60 nations who had pledged to step up counter-corruption measures. He himself had just returned from South Africa, where the International Anti-Corruption Conference had been held, and he stressed to the Committee that very few items on the international agenda were considered as important as the fight against corruption.

16. The second programme was devoted to the trafficking of human beings. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), every year 4 million illegal migrants were victims of such practices, providing from $5-7 billion in ill-gotten gains for traffickers. Unfortunately those figures represented only a small part of the problem, especially if one took into account women and children who were sexually or economically exploited. Organized criminal groups were no strangers to such trafficking and the global programme against trafficking in human beings was promoting the creation of "coalitions" among law enforcement agencies, immigration authorities, victim assistance groups, and human rights organizations with a view to bringing the strongest possible combined force to bear on the problem.

17. Within the framework of the third programme, which concentrated on the threat posed by organized crime, the Centre was assessing organized criminal groups worldwide in order to obtain reliable information, detect trends and perform analyses of the situation. Its findings would be the foundation for a world report on organized crime which would allow Member States to make more informed policy decisions.

18. Under the umbrella of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the Centre had already begun to implement programmes at the national level, particularly in South Africa where Mr. Mbeki and Mr. Mandela had promised him their full support. With the adoption of the convention the Centre's work would grow considerably and it must make every effort to remain one step ahead and assist countries in putting words into action.

19. He recalled that the reorganization of the Centre had been completed in 1998. Governments had supported the reforms undertaken and the Centre's operational budget had increased tenfold, going from $274,000 in 1996 to more than $3 million in 1999, which, when added to new pledges, should boost technical cooperation activities.

20. Recalling also that the Vienna International Centre had recently celebrated its twentieth anniversary, he concluded by stressing that the drug control and crime prevention programmes were the backbone of the United Nations Secretariat's presence in Vienna.

21. **Mr. Bhatti** (Pakistan) expressed his delegation's concern at the figures quoted by the Executive Director and added that illegal drug trafficking represented 8 per cent of world trade and money-laundering 2 to 5 per cent of world GNP, while the revenues from organized crime represented $1.8 billion. He unreservedly endorsed the Executive Director's opinion that the most effective instrument currently was alternative development.

22. Pakistan was a transit country in a region much affected by drug trafficking and he wondered what actions the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) was taking in its territory, in particular in the area of alternative development, since the growing of opium poppies had increased by 70 per cent in the south of Afghanistan in spite of the destruction of some crops. He wondered whether the Executive Director was aware of any negotiations with the Afghan Government, which seemed to be willing to combat drug trafficking. He also enquired about UNDCP activities to combat money-laundering, which he stressed was an international problem requiring a very firm and very effective strategy.

23. **Mr. Valdivieso** (Colombia), referring to the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and on resolution 53/115 of the General Assembly (A/54/186), said that it would be useful to briefly describe the salient points of the agreement concluded in April 1999 between UNDCP and the European Space Agency (ESA).

24. **Mr. Fadaifard** (Islamic Republic of Iran) guaranteed the Executive Director his country's unconditional support and cooperation in the fight against illegal drug trafficking, support motivated by the fact that geography had placed Iran between the principal drug producers to the east and the principal drug markets to the west. Recalling the statistics quoted by the Executive Director and referring to the increase in opium production in Afghanistan, he enquired what further measures would be taken and wondered whether UNDCP intended to revise or even toughen its policy towards Afghanistan.

25. **Mr. Arlacchi** (Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention), replying to two questions relating to Afghanistan, said that the situation regarding illicit crops had deteriorated, as his Office had predicted two years earlier, owing to insufficient efforts by the international community. The Office had, nonetheless, persuaded the Taliban to issue a formal prohibition of poppy cultivation throughout the territory and the Afghan Government was ready to undertake a project in the north of the country. Only limited action could be taken because of the general political situation and the scant resources available. The three provinces in Afghanistan where production had not risen substantially were precisely those where his Office had launched substitute activities requiring low start-up investment and involving local communities, providing them with minimum infrastructure to guarantee the long-term viability of the operation.

26. A second, parallel strategy ought to be set up, involving a security ring round Afghanistan with strengthened border controls. His Office had sent several high-level missions to Iran over the past two years to gain a better understanding of its border control policy and it seemed that the international community had come fully to understand that country's actions designed to stop the flow of heroin and opium from Afghanistan.

27. As a result of Iran's policy, the flow of illicit drugs had moved to the border with the Central Asian republics, in particular Tajikistan. In response to that situation, his Office had set up a drug control body, which would be operational in a few months, and had reached an agreement with the Russian troops stationed along the border on providing technical assistance to improve their interception of drugs from Afghanistan. His Office intended to hold a ministerial meeting in Vienna or New York at the end of November, to be attended by the 21 countries concerned by the situation in Afghanistan, which would analyse trends and discuss new, more effective strategies.

28. His Office was working on substitute crop production in Pakistan also.

29. With regard to money-laundering, he said that the United Nations International Drug Control Programme was setting up financial analysis services and legislation to deal with money-laundering. It was conducting negotiations in Vienna with a large number of countries to consider what measures should be taken, particularly at the level of regulation, in order to keep part of their economies healthy and to protect them against the activities of criminals engaged in money-laundering; it would shortly be setting up a special international initiative on the issue of extraterritorial banking activity. Lastly, the Programme was attempting to gain a better understanding of the workings of money-laundering, which were becoming ever more complex. To that end it was working closely with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

30. As for the agreement with the European Space Agency, he noted that at its latest session the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had requested his Office to set up a surveillance capacity, using the most advanced techniques, for crops intended for the manufacture of drugs. That required a combination of satellites, aerial photography and investigation on the ground. His Office intended to approach the European Commission for the necessary funding. It was also open to agreements with other space agencies.

31. **Ms. Mesdoua** (Algeria) asked whether it was not time for the international community to consider an international instrument dealing specifically with corruption.

32. **Mr. de Alba** (Mexico) asked for further details on possible activities in the context of the future action plan to implement the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. He also asked the Executive Director to comment on the use made of the reports submitted by States and on the exercise to rationalize the reporting procedure, to check the reliability of sources of information and, more generally, to undertake a balanced and reliable analysis enabling the international community to measure progress that had been made and see whether it was in a position to meet the targets for the years 2003 and 2008.

33. With regard to the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders, his delegation noted with satisfaction that the Centre for International Crime Prevention had taken measures to adapt its programmes in that area during discussions on trafficking of migrants. Migrants were victims and should on no account be considered as offenders. As for combating corruption, and the possibility of drawing up a comprehensive instrument on the issue, he stressed that such an instrument would be too limited if it was concerned solely with bribery.

34. Lastly, his delegation wished to know whether progress had been made or was expected with regard to the illicit manufacture of and trade in firearms. It understood that the phase of negotiations concluded that day in Vienna had resulted in substantial progress. It was perhaps time for the Secretariat to support such efforts, particularly since there was talk of the Centre playing a coordinating role in matters such as establishing databases, which meant that sooner or later the question of resources would arise.

35. **Mr. Augustus** (Rwanda) asked whether the Office's mandate also extended to crimes against humanity, such as genocide, because assistance for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda would be most desirable.

36. **Mr. Arlacchi** (Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention) said that three countries — Hungary, Lebanon and Romania — had already signed a cooperation agreement with his Office, under which they would work with the Office to find the best means of combating corruption in their countries and at the international level. An agreement with South Africa was also on the point of being signed. His view was that, before thinking about a convention against corruption, it would be sensible to agree on a final text for the convention against transnational organized crime by the end of 2000. At the regional level, there were some encouraging examples of instruments relating to corruption; the international community thus had a good basis for devising an excellent convention, along the lines of the future convention against transnational organized crime.

37. In reply to the question from the representative of Mexico regarding activities since the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, he said that his Office had recently embarked on a worldwide drug abuse assessment programme, in the belief that to achieve effective drug demand reduction it was necessary first to establish the full extent of the problem. Since very few countries currently had the necessary equipment and many did not even have a specialized evaluation unit, it was a matter of priority to set up essential structures to enable the countries of the world to have their own systems for evaluating drug demand. At the financial level, greater support would be required. He therefore intended to raise the matter at the next meeting of donors.

38. Another measure taken by the Office following the special session of the General Assembly had been to extend its prevention, treatment and reintegration programme. After an exhaustive analysis of the Office's operations in areas where there was a high demand for narcotics, particularly Pakistan and South Africa, assistance to those countries had been increased. There was a particular need to set aside more resources for the construction of treatment and prevention centres. It was also important to continue mobilizing youth, an approach which had yielded good results. Finally, the Office was in the process of opening a special section on its Internet site for drug addicts and educators, and providing information about special programmes for children.

39. With regard to the traffic in small arms, which was the subject of one of the protocols to the convention against transnational organized crime, it was envisaged that the Centre for International Crime Prevention would centralize data on that traffic in cooperation with other organs and bodies of the United Nations, such as the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

40. Responding to the question posed by the representative of Rwanda, the Executive Director said that the Centre was not competent to deal with such questions, nor did it have the material means to do so; however, that did not rule out the possibility that in future a link could be established between crimes against humanity and the activities of the Centre.

41. **Mr. Diao Mingsheng** (China) requested more information on the progress made at the latest series of negotiations on a convention against transnational organized crime and its protocols.

42. **Mr. Nour** (Egypt), speaking with reference to the imbalance between earmarked contributions and general contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, requested clarification on that topic and on the specific destinations of contributions. He also wished to know to what degree the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the Centre for International Crime Prevention could increase their cooperation.

43. **Mr. Arlacchi** (Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention) said that substantial progress had been made during the session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, particularly with regard to the provisions of the convention concerning extradition and mutual assistance. The Ad Hoc Committee had also considered the question of money-laundering, and the commitment manifested in favour of guidelines on international measures in that regard had been encouraging. That consensus could be broadened during the second reading of the text, to occur before the end of 1999.

44. Reverting to the question of the financing of the convention's implementation, which had been only partially addressed by the Ad Hoc Committee, he expressed the hope that the convention would provide for a mechanism to allow developing countries to finance its implementation. Serious consideration had already been given to creating a United Nations fund, consisting of a percentage of the assets confiscated from criminal organizations, that would assist

signatory developing countries in implementing the convention.

45. With regard to the large number of earmarked contributions, he said that the Office was attempting to reverse that trend, although without much success to date. Nevertheless, the interest shown by Member States in the three programmes on corruption, traffic in human beings and organized crime was encouraging. The expansion of the donor base would allow the Centre to intensify its cooperation with the institutions concerned with crime prevention associated with the United Nations, as well as with other such institutions throughout the world. It should be noted, for example, that the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) was cooperating with the Centre on making preparations for the tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

46. **Mr. Kääriäinen** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the countries associated with the European Union and the European Free Trade Association members Iceland and Norway, said that a number of measures had been taken to implement the decisions taken at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

47. For its part, the European Union attached great importance to the action plan on demand reduction, which was soon to be adopted by the General Assembly.

48. The European Union also stressed the importance of the work undertaken to streamline the submission of national reports by Member States to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). The United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs had requested an inter-sessional working group to formulate guidelines to that end, thanks to which the Commission should be better able to monitor and guide the implementation of the goals set during the special session. The political commitment of Member States was crucial in making the work of the Commission and UNDCP more effective.

49. Member States had been supportive of the strengthening of the capacity of UNDCP by providing it with adequate funding (through both the regular United Nations budget and voluntary contributions), by streamlining the functioning of the Commission and through enhanced inter-agency cooperation. The European Union intended to continue its support for the Programme and urged all Governments to do likewise, morally and financially, so as to allow UNDCP to fulfil its expanded mandate following the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Other international, regional and national organizations, including non-governmental organizations, could contribute their experiences and valuable partnership. It was therefore particularly welcome that UNDCP had become associated with the United Nations Joint and Committee-sponsored Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), as the problems of drugs and HIV/AIDS were obviously connected. The European Union also repeated its call for all States to ratify and to implement their obligations under the three United Nations conventions relating to drugs.

50. With the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty, the European Union had set for itself the goal of ensuring the protection of its citizens within an area of freedom, security and justice. Action against illicit drugs was inseparable from that concept. The European Union drugs strategy for the years 2000-2004 would emphasize shared responsibility and a global, balanced and comprehensive approach to the drug problem. In the area of information, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction provided citizens, politicians and professionals with the data they needed in order to deal with drug-related problems. Besides the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, with which the Centre was intensifying its cooperation, the European Union was also cooperating with Latin American, Caribbean and African countries within the frameworks of a number of Action Plans and intended to intensify its cooperation with Central Asia as well. Moreover, the first common strategy of the European Union, a strategy on Russia adopted in June 1999, included a substantial segment on cooperation in the field of drugs and crime prevention.

51. The European Union had made a priority of crime prevention, and particularly of action to combat organized crime. It was currently debating a strategy that would emphasize, for example, the need for enhanced cooperation among police and judicial authorities, aim at strengthening the work of the European Police Office and stress the importance of tracing, freezing, seizing and confiscating the proceeds of crime. The member States of the European Union had actively participated in the drafting of a convention against transnational organized crime. The European Union hoped that work on the convention and the three additional legal instruments would be concluded in the year 2000 and that, once adopted, the convention and protocols would be speedily ratified and implemented.

52. With regard to the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, the European Union appreciated efforts to give priority to the adoption of the proposed convention and its protocols, but also emphasized the need to maintain a balance between organized crime issues and other more general issues. In that context, it welcomed the discussions during the eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on

such issues as effective crime prevention, domestic violence, corruption, victim assistance, prison conditions and juvenile justice.

53. The European Union encouraged the efforts to strengthen the organizational capacity of the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention and noted with interest its initiative against trafficking in human beings, corruption and transnational organized crime.

54. The European Union was looking forward to the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, due to be held in April 2000. In particular, it welcomed the preliminary draft of a single Vienna declaration on crime and justice: meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century. The European Union encouraged an exchange of information on issues of common concern between the Tenth Congress and the special sessions on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development.

55. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms should constitute a basic underlying principle of policies in connection with drugs and crime. The root causes of those problems should be attacked by reducing poverty and social exclusion, as well as the opportunity and motivation for crime. The strategies directed against the world drug problem should benefit both men and women equally and trade policy measures should be used to encourage the development of substitution crops.

56. International cooperation already existed in the field of tackling drugs and illicit crime and was being enhanced all the time. Nevertheless, the European Union believed that such cooperation should be intensified within the framework of the United Nations, as it was only through concerted action that sustainable long-term solutions in that field would be achieved.

57. **Mr. de Alba** (Mexico), speaking on agenda item 108 on behalf of the States members of the Rio Group, said that the Veracruz Act, adopted by the ministers for foreign affairs of the Group in March 1999, reaffirmed the need for cooperation at all levels in accordance with the principle of shared responsibilities in the fight against drugs. In the context of the commitments which it had undertaken at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, the international community should take action to support the development of alternative activities in those areas where drugs were illicitly cultivated, while also respecting the legislation of each country and the relevant international conventions.

58. The Group welcomed the unanimous approval given by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the proposed Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which had been the first concrete result of the special session of the General Assembly. The Plan stipulated the commitments and measures to be undertaken by States and by international and regional organizations with a view to achieving a substantial reduction in the demand for drugs by the year 2008, particularly among the most vulnerable groups. It also defined measures for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation and recommended the launching of information campaigns. As such, the Plan demonstrated the interest of the United Nations in public health policies and programmes, which were vital components of a global approach to the drugs problem.

59. The Rio Group also noted with satisfaction the considerable progress achieved in elaborating guidelines on the presentation of national reports and on the design of mechanisms for evaluating aspects of international cooperation to combat drugs and the difficulties facing such cooperation.

60. In that context, the Rio Group was pleased to announce the conclusion of the negotiations on the multilateral evaluation mechanism of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, which was based on respect for the sovereignty and internal legal order of States and on shared responsibilities. Characterized by transparency, equality and objectivity, it excluded all forms of sanction and aimed to strengthen mutual trust and cooperation with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of action. In the near future, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs might take its cue from the tangible progress which would result from the implementation of that mechanism.

61. Speaking on behalf of his own delegation, he suggested that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should carry through to a successful conclusion the elaboration of guidelines that would permit an objective evaluation of the progress which countries had achieved in pursuing the objectives set for 2003 and 2008.

62. His country reaffirmed its willingness to combat drugs on all fronts. Since the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, it had actively participated in international and regional forums devoted to the problem. At the national level, the National Security Council had implemented a new strategy for combating drug trafficking which had produced excellent results. That strategy focused on enhanced coordination between institutions and the formulation of a national plan to combat the production of

narcotic drugs, as well as the use of advanced technology, increased investments of between $400 and $500 million in the three years to come, prevention campaigns and public awareness campaigns.

63. Concerning crime prevention and criminal justice, he welcomed the progress achieved in the elaboration of a convention against transnational organized crime and of its protocols, which were under negotiation. His country had helped to draft those instruments, which were particularly concerned with cooperation to combat money-laundering and corruption, illicit firearm manufacture and traffic, smuggling of migrants and traffic in human beings, particularly women and children. More specifically, Mexico had submitted a draft protocol on money-laundering and had begun considering the problem of corruption.

64. In his view, Member States should join in examining the content and orientation of world programmes against traffic in human beings, corruption and transnational crime, under the auspices of the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention. It was also essential to ensure better coordination between the different authorities concerned with such problems with a view to avoiding any risk of duplication.

65. **Mr. Dlamini** (Swaziland), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that international cooperation to combat drug trafficking and transnational organized crime continued to be important and should therefore be strengthened.

66. SADC welcomed the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The preliminary draft of the Vienna declaration on crime and justice served as a good basis for further negotiation at the Tenth Congress, as it took into account the results of the regional preparatory meetings and the goals of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

67. In view of the importance of the Congress, SADC hoped that countries would be represented at a high political level with a view to raising awareness among political leaders and increasing the political will to combat organized crime. In addition, it was encouraged to note that one of the four workshops to be held within the framework of the Tenth Congress would be devoted to the topic of women in the criminal justice system.

68. The Community welcomed the significant progress made in the elaboration of an international convention against transnational organized crime and of protocols on trafficking in women and children, in migrants and in firearms. It hoped that those instruments would be adopted at the proposed conference of plenipotentiaries in 2000. It also hoped that all developing countries which so requested could obtain the financial assistance necessary to participate in the conference.

69. It was encouraging that, despite its limited budget, the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had been effective and had been able to implement a number of projects, such as a study on the impact of crime on development in southern African countries. In view of the Institute's importance for Africa, the Community encouraged its continued cooperation with the Centre for International Crime Prevention, the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and international and regional agencies.

70. Southern Africa, like all other parts of the world, was not spared the harmful effects of the illicit drug scourge and the Community had devised ways to meet the challenge. It had thus established its Drug Control Committee and Drug Control Database, which would facilitate the implementation of the Community's Regional Drug Control Programme. The Community hoped that the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which had launched a new initiative to assist Governments, would work with it in strengthening its Epidemiological Network.

71. The Community had recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention which should facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development. It was also grateful to the European Union for its support.

72. **Ms. Christine Lee** (Singapore), speaking on agenda item 107, expressed her delegation's special appreciation for the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the issue of transnational organized crime because Singapore, as a small island State, was unfortunately a hub for criminal activities and a transit point for the international trade in drugs. In its struggle to protect its society from such pernicious influences, the country had maintained the provision for capital punishment in its laws, in the conviction that the rights of every individual must be balanced against those of the community as a whole. Appropriate judicial safeguards for the accused did not mean that the rights of the victims of crimes, who were entitled to just and effective remedies, or of the community as a whole, should be forgotten.

73. Her delegation, which respected the position of countries that had abolished the death penalty, believed that those countries should equally respect the position of her

country and of other States which had decided that the death penalty was a necessary component of their criminal justice systems. She therefore had, with regret, to deplore the position of the European Union, which was attempting to impose on other States its views on criminal justice. The only international instrument that imposed an obligation on States to abolish the death penalty was the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which only 38 States had ratified since its entry into force in July 1991. The obligations of those 38 could not be imposed on States not parties to the Protocol. The European Union resolution on the question of the death penalty was thus an attempt to force States not parties to the second Protocol to comply with its terms, thereby denying such States their sovereign right of choice, in violation of Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations.

74. **Mr. Kiriella** (Sri Lanka), speaking on agenda item 107, welcomed the two resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in May 1999, one on a possible convention against transnational organized crime and the three draft protocols thereto and the other on the possible elaboration of an international instrument relating to the illicit manufacture of and traffic in firearms. His delegation wholeheartedly supported the elaboration of such a convention.

75. Mention should also be made of Council resolution 1999/28 on the administration of juvenile justice, which stressed the need both to give assistance to children and young people in order to prevent them from resorting to crime and, rather than imprisoning young offenders, actively to promote their re-education, rehabilitation and reintegration. Drug abuse and involvement in crime by juveniles were symptomatic of a malaise afflicting modern society, every member of which should give honest thought to the issue.

76. With regard to agenda item 108, the delegation of Sri Lanka, which had been adversely affected by terrorism and illegal arms trafficking, fully endorsed the concerns expressed in the Political Declaration of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly in June 1998 about the links between illicit drug production and trafficking and the involvement of terrorist groups.

77. Sri Lanka was not a drug-producing country nor a major consumer, but, given its proximity to the "Golden Crescent" and the "Golden Triangle", it feared the adverse effects of drug-related problems, which had affected the country particularly over the past two decades. The President had therefore appointed, in August 1997, a Special Committee to develop a national policy and programme on alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs. Its recommendations were consistent with those of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. Several bills were currently before Parliament.

78. Despite the internal conflict that had prevailed in Sri Lanka for a number of years, the various faiths lived together in harmony, thanks to the principle of tolerance, which was a way of life for followers of Buddhism, the main religion in Sri Lanka. The International Buddhist Conference, held in November 1998, had urged that the Wesak Day, which was celebrated in May, should be declared a United Nations holiday. A resolution to that effect would be introduced in the General Assembly and his delegation was confident that it would receive the consideration of Member States that it richly deserved.

79. **Mr. Valdivieso** (Colombia), speaking on agenda item 108, said that the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention had painted a troublesome picture of the current world situation, drawing attention to four clear trends: increasing global consumption and the risk of increased and diversified sources of drug supply; the growing incidence of synthetic drugs; the closer interconnection among the criminal drug organizations operating in the different markets of the world; and the possible future legalization of the less dangerous drugs. International legal instruments and organs of control were not sufficient to counteract those trends; States should display the political will to act together, as they had already done in the conclusions adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. His delegation, which, as a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and of the international group of experts, had contributed extensively to the final text, welcomed the forthcoming adoption by the General Assembly of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction.

80. A regrettable effect of globalization was that criminal organizations used modern means of transport, communications and international bank transfers in order to create new distribution networks and interact with those already in existence. He was therefore pleased to observe the progress achieved in elaborating the draft United Nations convention against transnational organized crime and its three protocols, one of which would penalize the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms. It was indispensable, moreover, that the private sector should manifest a firmer commitment in all countries, as recommended by the special session of the General Assembly. Financial institutions, the chemical industry and trading companies must refuse to lend themselves as

conduits for money-laundering, the diversion of chemical precursors or the smuggling of weapons.

81. His country was deeply committed to the efforts by the international community to put an end to the drug problem and, in view of the great advance in the fight against drugs in Colombia, it wished to share its experience with other countries and to hear of their own successful experiences. Very recently, the success of a multinational operation in capturing a group of criminals had made it possible to dismantle one of the most powerful structures of organized drug crime. To achieve peace in Colombia had become a national imperative, to which end his Government had proposed a plan of peace, prosperity and strengthening of the State to several other Governments and international organizations. It had also put into operation a new national plan to combat drugs for the years 1998 to 2002.

82. His country had also signed agreements with several countries (including the United States of America and the European Union) and international organizations, in addition to devising new arrangements with neighbouring countries for border surveillance and joint operations. Furthermore, within the inter-American family of nations, it had contributed to the design of a mechanism for multilateral evaluation.

83. **Ms. Leyton** (Chile), speaking on item 108, in which connection she associated herself with the statement of the Mexican representative, said that her country had taken an active part in all United Nations initiatives relating to the question of international drug control. She was convinced that the problems posed called for a concerted approach based on the principle of shared responsibilities and respect for the sovereignty of States, as well as for the relevant multilateral conventions.

84. At the regional level, her country had participated in the activities of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission and the Organization of American States and in the two inter-American presidential summit meetings held in 1994 and 1998. Within the context of the commitments linking it with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), it had also taken an active part in various subregional programmes, particularly concerning the establishment of information systems and the training of civil servants.

85. At the domestic level, Chile had taken the necessary legal measures to prevent and punish money-laundering and facilitate judicial cooperation. It also applied all the relevant treaties and agreements, in particular the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The programmes set up to prevent drug manufacture, trafficking and abuse had produced encouraging results, as reflected in the two most recent reports of the International Narcotics Control Board.

86. As for the elaboration of new programmes and strategies to reduce drug demand, Chile had chosen a global approach which, in addition to State intervention, called on the initiative of civil society. In particular, it was a matter of working with the latter in order the ensure the success of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes. The implementation of such programmes should enable Chile to reduce considerably the demand for and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by the year 2008.

87. **Mr. Umeda** (Japan), speaking on item 107, said that, since the adoption of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, Japan had intensified its efforts to promote international cooperation and to formulate and implement domestic measures against organized transnational crime. In that connection, he believed that priority should be given to the negotiations on the draft United Nations convention against transnational organized crime and its three protocols with a view to finalizing the text by the end of the year 2000.

88. In addition to the creation of legal instruments, voluntary international cooperation was important, on which score his Government was active in providing technical assistance in the field of information exchange and law enforcement cooperation. It had also presented three bills to the Japanese Diet (which had passed them on 13 August 1999), resulting in new laws which imposed severe penalties on organized crime, authorized the interception of electronic communications in connection with investigations of specific serious crimes and provided for the protection of witnesses during trial. Although the work done by the United Nations to develop international treaties and norms was to be commended, it was nevertheless the responsibility of each Government to implement such treaties and norms and enforce its own criminal justice programme. On that question, Japan was deeply concerned by the draft resolution on the question of the death penalty due to be presented by the European Union; the death penalty was a highly controversial issue which divided countries that should instead be working in close conjunction to fight crime.

89. Turning to item 108, he said that his Government welcomed the high-level political commitment made by the leaders of many countries to strengthen efforts for international drug control. He emphasized, however, the utmost importance of effective and prompt implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan.

90. With a view to breaking the vicious cycle of drug abuse, his Government attached importance to reducing drug demand, in which connection prevention was more effective than treatment and rehabilitation. As such, Japan fully supported the policy articulated in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and believed that young people should be provided with unbiased and objective information about drug problems at the earliest stage possible.

91. The problem of the illicit production, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants having now become a global issue, Japan supported UNDCP efforts to obtain information on the problem with a view to taking effective action.

92. Given the high priority attached to regional cooperation, Japan had hosted, as a follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly, an Asian conference on drug enforcement in February 1999 in Tokyo.

93. At the national level, his Government had, at the initiative of the Prime Minister, launched a new five-year strategy for the prevention of drug abuse which focused on young people, enforcement of the law against traffickers, border control and the improvement of medical services. Implementation of the strategy was proceeding quite well.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.